

4.15 Recreation

This section describes and evaluates the potential impacts to recreational resources and facilities associated with the proposed General Plan Update. This section is based on review of the City of Escondido Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space, and other sources, as cited throughout the section.

A summary of the recreation impacts identified in Section 4.15.3, Analysis of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance, is provided below.

Recreation Summary of Impacts

Issue Number	Issue Topic	Project Direct Impact	Project Cumulative Impact	Impact After Mitigation
1	Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities	Less than significant	Less than significant	Less than significant
2	Construction of New Recreational Facilities	Less than significant	Less than significant	Less than significant

4.15.1 Existing Conditions

The following section describes the existing conditions associated with the recreational facilities within the proposed project's planning area boundary in terms of parks, trails, additional recreational facilities and park and recreation needs.

4.15.1.1 Parks

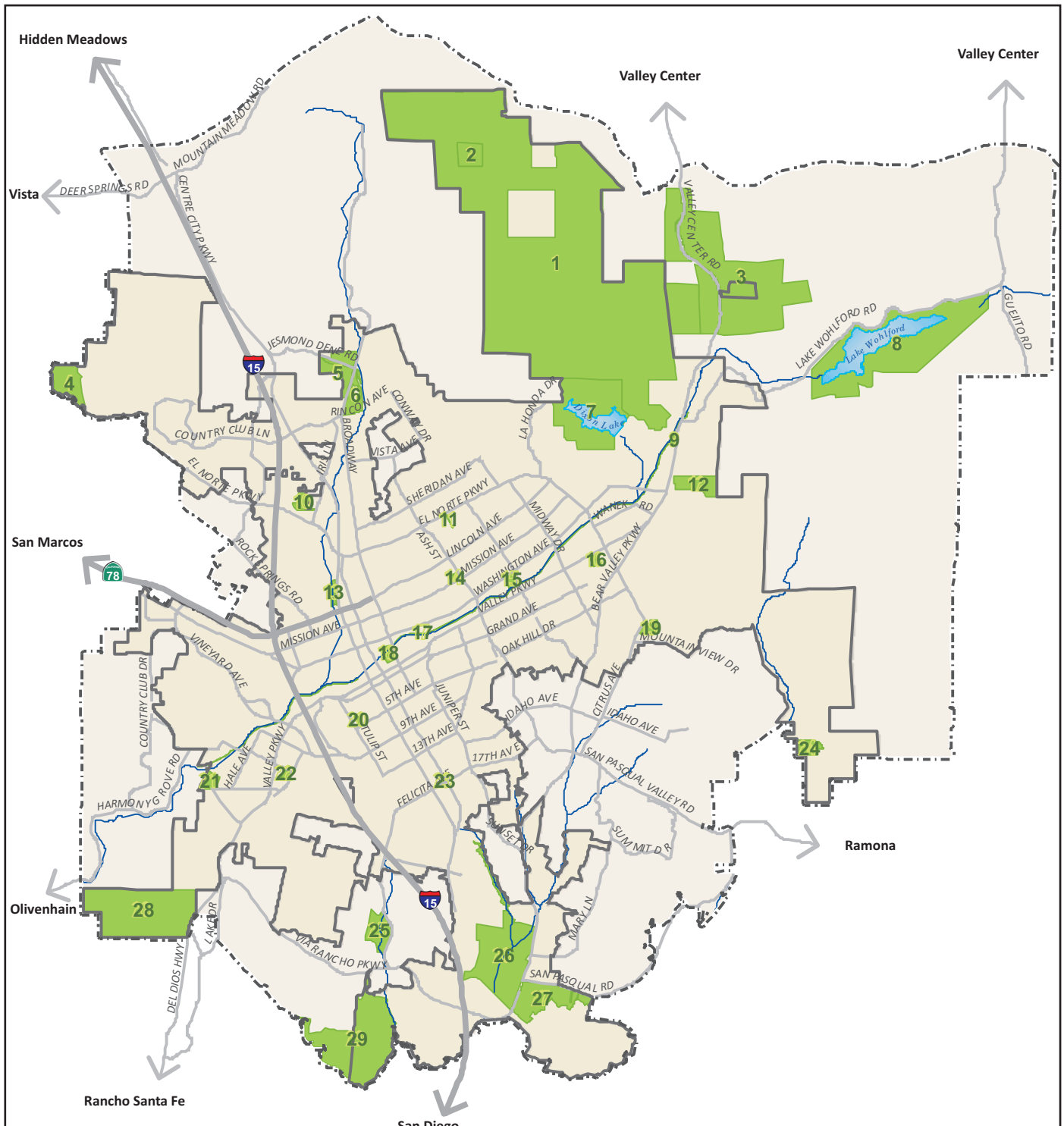
The following discussion identifies existing parks, park types, park service standards, and park planning within the proposed project area.

Existing Parks

Table 4.15-1, Escondido Park Facilities, identifies parks within the proposed project area while Figure 4.15-1, Parks and Recreational Facilities, identifies the location of these park facilities. Specific information on some of the major park facilities within the proposed project area are described below. All parks within the proposed project area are operated by the City, with the exception of Felicita County Park and the San Diego County Open Space Area, which ~~is~~ are owned and operated by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation.

El Norte Park

El Norte Park, which extends from El Norte Parkway to Stanley Way, is a 2.5-acre park with children's play areas, picnic tables, barbecues, and an open turf area.



Park Names

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1: Daley Ranch Park | 11: El Norte Park | 21: Avenida Del Diablo Park |
| 2: BLM Land | 12: Francis Ryan Park | 22: 11th Avenue Park |
| 3: Valley Center Rd Open Space | 13: Reidy Creek Comm. Garden | 23: Escondido Blvd Pocket Park |
| 4: Palos Vista Open Space | 14: Grove Park | 24: Eagle Crest Park |
| 5: Jesmond Dene Park | 15: Washington Park | 25: Felicita Park |
| 6: Reidy Creek Golf Course | 16: E. Valley Community Center | 26: Kit Carson Park |
| 7: Lake Dixon Park | 17: Escondido Creek Linear Park | 27: Vineyard Golf course |
| 8: Lake Wohlford Park | 18: Grape Day Park | 28: Del Dios Highlands |
| 9: Mayflower Dog Park | 19: Mountain View Park | 29: Bernardo Mtn. Open Space Area |
| 10: Rod McLeod Park | 20: Westside Park | |

- General Plan Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Street
- Streams
- Lakes

Source: City of Escondido 2011



**PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
FIGURE 4.15-1**

Table 4.15-1 Escondido Park Facilities

Park	Developed Acreage	Undeveloped Acreage	Total Acreage
Urban Parks			
Escondido Boulevard	0.2	--	0.2
Escondido Creek Linear Park	10.0	10.0	20.0
Urban Total	10.2	10.0	20.2
Neighborhood Parks			
El Norte Park	2.5	--	2.5
Grove Park	4.5	--	4.5
Avenida del Diablo	--	2.5	2.5
Westside Park	2.3	--	2.3
11 th Avenue Park	--	2.0	2.0
Lake Wohlford Park (Picnic Area)	2.5	--	2.5
Neighborhood Park Total	11.8	4.5	16.3
Community Parks			
Jesmond Dene Park	10.0	31.8	41.8
Rod McLeod Park	18.0	--	18.0
Washington Park	11.0	--	11.0
Mountain View Park	11.0	12.0	23.0
Grape Day Park	23.5	--	23.5
Francis Ryan Park	28.0	29.0	57.0
Lake Dixon Park (Picnic / Play Area)	10.0	--	10.0
Kit Carson Park (Active Recreation Area)	100.0	10.0	110.0
Eagle Crest	32.0	--	32.0
Reidy Creek Community Garden	20.0	--	20.0
Mayflower Dog Park	6.4	0	6.4
Felicita County Park	52.0	--	52.0
Total Community Parks	321.9	82.8	404.7
School Playgrounds			
Elementary Schools (12)	60.0	--	60.0
Middle Schools (3)	30.0	--	30.0
High Schools (3)	30.0	--	30.0
School Total	120.0	--	120.0
Regional Open Space Parks			
Daley Ranch (wilderness)	3,201.0	--	3,201.0
Lake Wohlford (wilderness)	912.0	--	912.0
Lake Dixon Lake (wilderness)	328.5	--	328.5
Kit Carson (wilderness)	190.0	--	190.0
Del Dios Highlands Preserve	464.0	--	464.0
Regional Open Space Total	4,631.5	--	4,631.5
City Owned Open Space			
Palos Vista	63.5	--	63.5
Valley Center Road Watershed	560.0	--	560.0
Various Miscellaneous / Utility Areas	45.0	--	45.0
City Owned Open Space Total	688.5	--	687.5

Source: Escondido General Plan Update Community Health and Services Element 2011, County of San Diego 2012

Felicita County Park

Felicita County Park is the site of one of the largest and oldest Native American villages in the County of San Diego. In the park, grinding holes and other artifacts reveal evidence of the centuries-old community of the Northern Diegueno Indians. Felicita County Park features 53 acres of dense oak groves, 2 horseshoe pits, picnic tables, barbecues, playgrounds, restrooms, volleyball court, nature trail and hiking trails.

Grape Day Park

Grape Day Park was dedicated in 1910, is the City's oldest park and is 23.5 acres in size. Every year from 1908 to 1950, people celebrated the annual Grape Day harvest in Grape Day Park, a festival recognizing grape growing as a major industry in Escondido Valley. Grape Day Park is a registered landmark and home to a turn-of-the-century working barn, Santa Fe Railroad Depot, blacksmith shop, and other historic buildings, museums, and monuments. Grape Day Park features include: picnic tables; 5 horseshoe pits; swimming pools; a Heritage Walk, which displays buildings preserved from Escondido's early days; and Vinehenge, an interactive public art project that includes a grapevine climbing structure with hidden secrets for children to find, a slide decorated with giant purple grapes with mosaic details, benches in the shape of oversized grape leaves and a perimeter of rocks reminiscent of the rocks in the hills around Escondido.

Grove Park

Named in recognition of the City's agricultural history, Grove Park is a 4.5-acre neighborhood park located in the Mission Park neighborhood of the City. Grove Park includes a gazebo, picnic tables, restrooms, two half-court basketball courts, two playgrounds, game tables and a walking path.

Jesmond Dene Park

Jesmond Dene Park, located at the intersection of North Broadway and Jesmond Dene Road, is named after the community of Jesmond Dene. The City of Escondido acquired the 35-acre park site in 1978. Jesmond Dene Park features 16 developed acres, two lighted Little League fields, one unlighted baseball field, concession stands, picnic tables, barbecues, playground and restrooms.

Kit Carson Park

The City of Escondido acquired the land for its largest regional park, Kit Carson Park, from the City of San Diego in 1967. Kit Carson Park sits in a valley that is approximately five miles west of where Kit Carson fought in the Battle of San Pasqual. Kit Carson Park includes walking trails, a five-acre arboretum, three ponds, a playground, picnic areas, turf areas, baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, a 3,000 person outdoor amphitheater, a sculpture garden, and the Escondido Sports Center complex, which includes a 22,000 square foot skate park, two full-size covered roller hockey arenas, one full-size soccer arena and one mini soccer arena.

Mountain View Park

Prior to development, Mountain View Park, located on Citrus Avenue and Glen Ridge Road, was an income-producing avocado and orange grove. The City purchased it in May 1985, in order to provide a recreational area for the growing community in the eastern area of the City. The park includes 11 developed acres, lighted little league fields, a soccer field, tennis courts, picnic tables, a playground, restrooms, and a turf area.

Rod McLeod Park

Rod McLeod Park is one of the higher points of land in the northwest portion of the proposed project area and affords good views of the City's downtown area to the south and surrounding countryside to the north. Rod McLeod Park features 18 developed acres, picnic tables, a tot lot, restrooms and playgrounds.

Ryan Park

Frances Ryan Park contains 67 acres, 42 of which are currently developed. This park includes seven athletic fields, parking, landscaping, restrooms and concession facilities.

Washington Park

Washington Park is an 11-acre facility with a swimming pool, children's pool, lighted ball field, lighted tennis courts, basketball courts, 1,200 square foot recreation building, playground, picnic areas and restrooms.

Westside Park

Westside Park, located at 4th Avenue and Spruce Street, was purchased in 1971. Westside Park is 2.3 acres and features picnic areas with tables and barbecues, basketball and volleyball courts, a handball wall, children's play area, restrooms and open turf areas.

Lake Dixon Lake

Lake Dixon Lake is a small lake that is open for fishing year round. Night fishing is available during summer months. It also offers other recreational activities including hiking and boating.

Lake Wohlford

Lake Wohlford is a small lake that is open for fishing year round. Night fishing is available during summer months. It also offers other recreational activities including hiking and boating.

Daley Ranch

Daley Ranch is a 3,201-acre conservation area purchased in 1996 by the City from the Daley family. Daley Ranch is managed in perpetuity for the preservation of a biologically unique and diverse habitat area of regional importance. Daley Ranch offers over 20 miles of multi-purpose trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Six distinct trails cover most of the property.

Park Types

Parks are the backbone of the open space system for public recreation within the proposed project area and have been established to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. Within the proposed project area, four types of parks exist, including: regional, community, neighborhood, and urban. Park designations are based upon park size, recreation facilities, and location. Park designations are described below. Table 4.15-2, Escondido Park Types and Standards, summarizes the requirements of each park type and provides examples of associated recreational facilities. Table 4.15-3, Appropriate Recreational Facilities by Park Type, identifies appropriate park recreation facilities by park type.

Table 4.15-2 Escondido Park Types and Standards

Park Type	Requirements	Examples
Regional Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for active and passive recreation • Serve a broader function of protecting significant landforms providing scenic views, preserving wildlife habitat, and offering Escondido residents access to natural areas • Activities offered in regional parks may include many activities found in community parks provided they are compatible with the natural areas of the regional parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature-hiking trails • Equestrian centers and trails • Jogging paths • Nature interpretive centers • Areas for rustic tent camping as well as for camping • Recreational vehicles • Wildlife sanctuaries • Youth camps • Retreat centers
Community Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topography and land configuration should be suitable to accommodate the park's proposed uses. A minimum of 65 percent of the park land area should be useable for active recreation areas • Sites should have or be able to achieve safe pedestrian and bicycle access • Sites should be visible from the street to enhance enjoyment of the park by people driving by and to facilitate security surveillance • A minimum site area of 15 acres is desired • Noise and light generated by park use should be mitigated to avoid disturbing adjacent residents • Parks should be buffered from adjacent residences through the use of landscaping, berms or other treatments • Community parks should be located in residential neighborhoods with at least one access point on a Collector road or larger street classification. Whenever possible, these facilities should be located adjacent to public schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose turf areas • Play equipment for both pre-school and elementary school-age children • Opportunities for passive recreation • Bike paths which are linked to a citywide bike trail system • Off-street parking facilities • Multi-use court areas and athletic areas • Restrooms and/or multi-use recreation buildings
Neighborhood Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two to five acres in size • Developed in residential areas where there is insufficient land to accommodate a 15-acre community park • A large majority of the land must be useable for active recreation • Located in residential neighborhoods with at least one access point off a Collector road • Whenever possible, these facilities shall be placed adjacent to public schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose turf area • Play equipment for both pre-school and elementary school-age children • Opportunities for passive recreation • Restroom facilities
Urban Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller than two acres, or linear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar facilities and characteristics as neighborhood parks but do not usually include restroom facilities

Source: EGP 2000

Table 4.15-3 Appropriate Recreational Facilities by Park Type

	Regional Park	Community Park	3-15 Acre Neighborhood Park	2-3 Acre Neighborhood Park	Urban Park
Multi-purpose turf area	□	▲	▲	▲	▲
Play equipment for both pre-school and elementary school-age children	▲	▲	▲	▲	□
Opportunities for passive recreation with benches and picnic tables	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Baseball, softball, and/or soccer fields	□	▲	□		
Restroom facilities	□	▲	□	□	
Exercise course	□	□	□	□	□
Multi-purpose courts, such as half-size basketball courts and volleyball courts	□	▲	□	□	□
Picnic tables with barbeque facilities	▲	▲	□	□	□
Pavilion for group picnic	▲	□	□		
Parking lot	▲	▲	□	□	
Interpretive display of natural and/or cultural resources	□	□	□		
Recreational buildings	□	□	□		
Trail staging areas for equestrian and/or other trail users	▲	□	□		
Swimming pools	□	□	□		
Boating/fishing	□				
Camping	□				

▲ = required facilities □ = optional facilities

Source: Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space 1994

Regional Parks

Regional Parks, such as Daley Ranch, Lake Dixon, Lake Wohlford, Del Dios Highlands Preserve and Kit Carson Park are large land holdings intended for the public's enjoyment of the natural landscape. Daley Ranch provides public hiking, riding and picnicking opportunities in a natural setting in conjunction with a habitat conservation land bank. Lake Dixon and Lake Wohlford offer a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, fishing and boating. Kit Carson Park, a combination regional and community park, provides active recreational opportunities, with natural acreage set aside for more passive activities and habitat preservation. Del Dios Highland Preserve provides a passive trail open for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.

Community Parks

Community parks, such as Washington, Mountain View, Jesmond Dene and Ryan Parks are primarily intended to provide athletic fields and sport courts for leagues of baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, and basketball players. Community parks require large sites for active recreation facilities such as ball fields, sport courts and large turf areas. However, a smaller size community park could be considered if the active facilities planned for the site meet the City's community park standards.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks, such as Westside and El Norte Parks, are two to 10 acres in size spread throughout the City to provide facilities such as play equipment, open turf and picnic areas. A minimum of 85

percent of a neighborhood park site must be usable for active recreational areas. For neighborhood planning areas that may be too developed to adequately site a neighborhood park, a neighborhood park may be located on the area or close to an adjacent neighborhood planning area. For example, certain neighborhoods such as country club, eastgrove, felicity and kit carson rely on space in adjacent neighborhoods in larger community or regional parks to satisfy neighborhood park needs.

Urban Parks

Urban parks are small neighborhood parks less than two acres in size, or linear parks in urban districts, with small areas of turf and/or multi-purpose courts and play equipment. In highly urbanized areas where suitable land is not available to develop a neighborhood park, an urban park may be provided. Sites are prominently visible, such as on a street corner, or configured to provide a long street frontage to maximize visibility in the neighborhood. Some of the recommended neighborhood parks and urban parks are located adjacent to public school sites to take advantage of the joint use potential of the public facilities in order to consolidate resources.

Park Service Standards

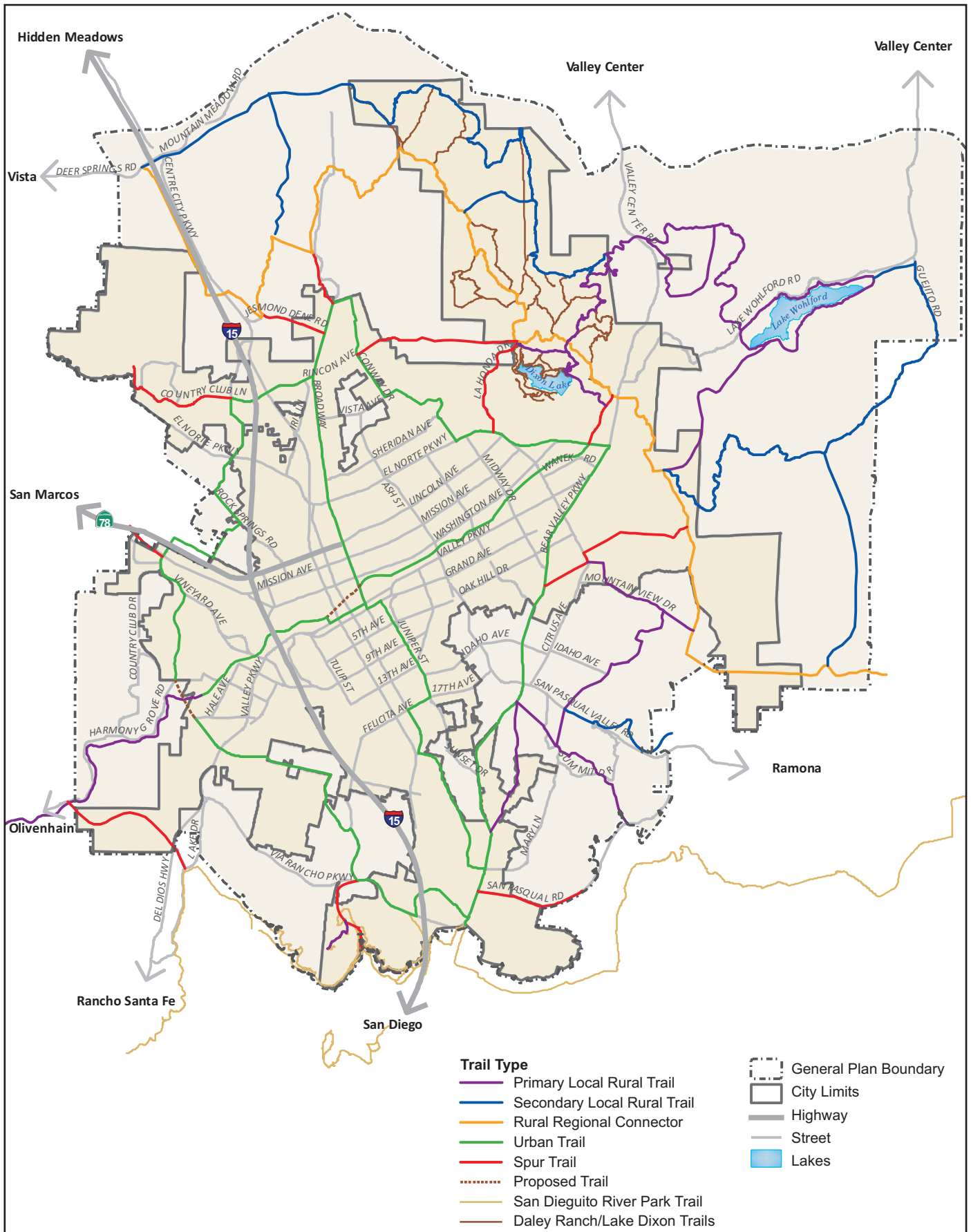
The existing City General Plan (2000) establishes the acceptable service standard ratio for parks. Policy C1.2 states that the City must provide a minimum of 5.9 acres of developed active neighborhood and community parks in addition to 5.9 acres of passive park land and/or open space for habitat preservation and additional recreational opportunities totaling 11.8 active and passive park acres per 1,000 dwelling units. School playground areas may be included as park acreage, provided that the park amenities and facilities are open to the public as determined by the City Council. The existing City General Plan does not delineate a standard for providing regional park space.

Park Planning

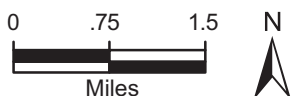
The City maintains a Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space, which serves as the guide for the City in developing a comprehensive and integrated recreational and open space system. The Master Plan identifies acquisition, development and joint use arrangements for existing and future parks in the proposed project area. The Master Plan also serves as the coordination document for the system of urban, suburban and rural hiking and riding trails that link the developed valley areas to the rural and open space lands on the perimeter.

4.15.1.2 Trails

Trails provide a linkage between parks and open space within the proposed project area. The Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space classifies trails within the proposed project area into three trail types: urban, spur and rural. Urban trails pass through the central core and suburban neighborhoods of the proposed project area and have been coordinated with bike routes. Rural trails extend out into the less developed countryside. Spur trails connect the urban to the rural trails. Trail types are discussed further below. Table 4.15-4, Planned Parks, Trails and Open Space Trails, and Figure 4.15-2, Master Plan for Parks, Trails, and Open Space Trails, identify Master Plan trails. All trails within the proposed project area are owned and operated by the City, with the exception of the spur trail that traverses the County of San Diego's Del Dios Highlands Preserve.



Source: City of Escondido 2011



**MASTER PLAN FOR PARKS,
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE TRAILS
FIGURE 4.15-2**

Table 4.15-4 Planned Parks, Trails and Open Space Trails

Trail Segment	Approximate Length
Primary Urban Trails	
North Broadway	3.5 miles
Valley Parkway/Grand Avenue/Second Avenue	0.5 miles
Juniper Street	2.0 miles
Kit Carson Creek	1.5 miles
West Escondido Creek	2.0 miles
East Escondido Creek	3.0 miles
Northeast Vista Verde Drive Ring	2.5 miles
Northeast El Norte Parkway Ring	2.0 miles
Bear Valley Parkway Ring	6.0 miles
Southwest Via Rancho/Felicita Avenue Ring	4.0 miles
West Citracado Parkway/SDG&E Loop Ring	5.0 miles
Northwest Deodar/Nordahl Road Ring	4.0 miles
Total Urban Trail Length	36.0 miles
Spur Trails	
Jesmond Dene	0.5 miles
North Broadway	1.0 miles
Rincon Avenue	2.5 miles
La Honda Drive	1.5 miles
Escondido Creek	1.0 miles
Reed Road	2.0 miles
San Pasqual Road	1.5 miles
Bernardo Mountain	1.5 miles
Railroad Rights-of-Way	0.5 miles
Country Club Lane/Vista Flume	2.5 miles
Total Spur Trail Length	14.5 miles
Regional Connector Rural Trail	
Mesa Rock Road	2.5 miles
SDG&E and Ridge Road	1.0 miles
Reidy Canyon	3.0 miles
Daley Ranch; Western Perimeter	2.5 miles
Daley Ranch; Southern Perimeter	2.0 miles
Northeast Gateway	1.5 miles
Cloverdale Creek	2.5 miles
Total Regional Connector Trail Length	15.0 miles
Primary Local Rural Trails	
Daley Ranch; Eastern Perimeter	2.0 miles
Lake Dixon	1.5 miles
Valley Center Road Open Space Loop	5.5 miles
Lake Wohlford Shores	4.5 miles
Interland Ridge	2.0 miles
Bernardo Peak	0.5 miles
San Elijo Canyon	2.5 miles

Table 4.15-4 continued

Trail Segment	Approximate Length
Harmony Pass	2.0 miles
Mountain View Drive	1.5 miles
Dead Horse, North	2.0 miles
Tepee Mountain	2.0 miles
Dead Horse Canyon, South	1.5 miles
Total Primary Local Rural Trail Length	27.5 miles
Secondary Local Rural Trails	
SDG&E, Ridge Road	2.0 miles
Mountain Meadow Road	2.5 miles
Daley Ranch, West Perimeter	1.5 miles
Daley Ranch, North/East Perimeter	4.0 miles
Old Guijito Grade	5.5 miles
East County, Valley View	5.5 miles
San Pasqual Valley Road	2.0 miles
Total Secondary Local Rural Trails Length	23.0 Miles

Note: Within Daley Ranch and City parks there are additional trails which are not listed in this table.

Source: City 1994

Urban Trails

Urban trails are paved surfaces, typically sidewalks, which are within the public rights-of-way adjacent to streets and the Escondido Creek channel. The primary landscaping along the urban trail system is comprised of street trees and parkway landscaping. Typically, urban trails accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Urban trails extend north, south, east and west from Escondido City Hall. An urban trail ring also surrounds the central core of the City, linking the key public parks which serve as gateways to the rural trail system. A total of 36 miles of urban trails are identified in the Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space.

Spur Trails

Spur trails are paved surfaces within the public rights-of-way similar to urban trails. Spur trails provide direct linkages between urban and rural trails and are landscaped with street trees and parkway landscaping. Spur trails accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists and may also be designed with an unpaved, separate path for equestrians. Approximately 14.5 miles of spur trails are identified in the Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space.

Rural Trails

Rural trails are unpaved paths that encircle the City through natural, undeveloped areas. Three types of rural trails exist: 1) Rural Regional Connector; 2) Primary Local Rural; And 3) Secondary Local Rural.

Rural Regional Connector Trail

The 15-mile perimeter Rural Regional Connector Trail is a key trail within the proposed project area and connects the trail systems of the San Dieguito River Park to those of San Marcos via the eastern edge of the community. The Rural Regional Connector Trail begins in San Pasqual Valley at Rancho San Pasqual Neighborhood Park and extends northward to the Cloverdale Road Trail passing south and west of

Bottle Peak. The trail then passes northeast through the Mutual Water Property adjacent to Valley Center Road to the northeast across Valley Parkway to the eastern edge of Daley Ranch. The Daley Ranch Trail connects to the western area at the Reidy Canyon Trail which travels westward to the SDG&E Ridge Road Trail. The Rural Regional Connector Trail then proceeds south to the Mesa Rock Trail which runs northwest to connect to the San Marcos trail system.

Primary Local Rural Trails

The Primary Local Rural Trail system is approximately 27 miles in length and forms a series of interconnected loops throughout the proposed project area. These trails loop around Lake Wohlford and Lake Dixon ~~Lake~~ as well as the Mutual Water Property adjacent to Valley Center Road. Other primary local rural trails link the eastern portion of the community with the San Dieguito River Park.

Secondary Local Rural Trails

Located in more rugged, less developed areas of the proposed project area are approximately 23 miles of Secondary Local Rural Trails. Secondary Local Rural Trails are constructed only after the primary urban, primary spur, Local Rural and Rural Regional Connector trails are in place.

4.15.1.3 Other Recreational Facilities

The following section describes recreational facilities, other than parks and trails, which are available throughout the proposed project area.

East Valley Community Center

In 1994 the East Valley Community Center was completed. The East Valley Community Center is a full-service recreation center offering classes in health and fitness, dance, personal development, pre-school and other children's activities. This facility has three meeting rooms, a 120-person theater-style banquet room with kitchen, and a multi-use gymnasium.

Joslyn Senior Center

The Joslyn Senior Center is located at 210 Park Avenue, near downtown Escondido. The center is jointly funded by the City, County, and private donations and offers a wide range of services and programs to adults over the age of 50. Over 138 organizations, 300 volunteers, and 3,000 members participate in social activities, direct services and support services offered by the center. Facilities and services provided by the Joslyn Senior Center include: dances; bingo; exercise; meetings; shuffleboard courts; library; billiards room; television room; gift shop; thrift shop; dining room; daily van service; minor home repair program; Meals-on-Wheels; and preventive health screening.

Golf Courses

Golf courses are an important recreational component in southern California. The popularity of golf has risen in recent years and several courses have been developed in the area to satisfy the growing demand. The City developed its first municipal golf course in 1993, located east of Kit Carson Park (The Vineyard at Escondido) at the southeast corner of Bear Valley Parkway and San Pasqual Road.

Equestrian Facilities

Private equestrian facilities operate in San Pasqual Valley, Eden Valley, Harmony Grove, North Broadway and Jesmond Dene areas, and adjacent communities. Limited equestrian staging facilities have been incorporated into the trails system identified in the Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space to ensure that horseback riders have access to the system. Currently, equestrian access is provided by staging areas and multi-use trails in Daley Ranch.

4.15.2 Regulatory Framework

4.15.2.1 Federal

National Trails System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543)

The National Trails System Act instituted a nationwide system of interstate riding and hiking trails. At the state level, the California Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared the California Recreational Trails Plan. Federal and state governments realize the importance of preserving and developing new riding and hiking trails and adopted this legislation to protect existing trails and provide for new trails and related facilities.

4.15.2.2 State

California State Government Code 66477 (The Quimby Act)

This code specifies that new subdivisions can be required to dedicate land or pay a fee in-lieu of dedication for local parks at a level of three acres per 1,000 population. Up to five acres per 1,000 population can be required if the current local park acreage exceeds the three-acre level. These fees cannot be used for regional serving improvements.

California State Government Code 831.4

This code was amended to limit landowners' liability for persons trespassing on his/her property for recreational purposes including riding and hiking.

California State Government Code 846

This Code establishes that an owner of any estate or any other interest in real property owes no duty of care to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for any recreational purpose or to give any warning of hazardous conditions on their premises to persons entering for such purpose, except as provided under specific circumstances as provided by the Code.

Conservation Easement Act of 1979

The Conservation Easement Act enables a city, county, district, or nonprofit organization to acquire perpetual easements for the conservation of agricultural land and open space, or for historic preservation. Unlike open space easements, there is no procedure for non-renewal of conservation easements and there is no expiration date. In establishing an easement, a landowner and local agency

agree upon the permitted land uses within the conservation area. The easement is binding upon successive owners of the land.

Government Code Section 50575 et seq. (The Little-Used Open Space Maintenance Act)

The Little-Used Open Space Maintenance Act is helpful when a city or county has already acquired open space, but doesn't have a way to pay for its maintenance. Under the act, local governments may levy special assessments, based on the value of the land, to improve and maintain open space; reduce fire, flood, and erosion hazards; and perform related activities.

Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972

The Landscaping and Lighting Act enables cities, counties, and special districts to acquire land for parks, recreation, and open space. A local government may also use the assessments to pay for improvements and maintenance to these areas. In addition to local government agencies (i.e., counties and cities), park and recreation facilities may be provided by other public agencies, such as community service districts, park and recreation districts, water districts, etc. If so empowered, such an agency may acquire, develop, and operate recreation facilities for the general public.

Open Space Easement Act of 1974

Cities and counties may acquire open space easements pursuant to the Open Space Easement Act. Land must remain within an easement in perpetuity or, alternatively, for at least 10 years. An easement's term is automatically extended each year by an additional 12 months. Under certain circumstances, open space easements may be abandoned. Privately dedicated open space easements for mitigation purposes are dedicated in perpetuity and cannot be abandoned.

Senate Bill 1685

Senate Bill (SB) 1685 authorizes open space districts to levy special assessments for open space purposes. The enabling legislation for regional open space districts is in the California Public Resources Code commencing with Section 5500 and in the Government Code commencing with Section 56000. Pursuant to this Code, regional park and open space districts are formed when three or more jurisdictions, together with any parcel of city or county territory, organize a contiguous area with the intent for the designated space to serve the park and recreational needs of the San Diego region. SB 1685 is the same authority as that for regional park districts and open space districts.

4.15.3 Analysis of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance

4.15.3.1 Issue 1: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities

Guidelines for Determination of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and existing City policies and regulations, the proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated.

Impact Analysis

Growth occurring under the proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update would be consistent with the growth identified for the proposed General Plan Update; therefore, the following analysis pertains to both the General Plan Update and the Downtown Specific Plan Update. Impacts related to implementation of the E-CAP are discussed separately below.

General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update

An increase in population would result in an increased demand for recreational facilities, which has the potential to result in the deterioration of existing facilities. An increase in single and multi-family residential development would result in an increase in population. Table 3-4, General Plan Update Buildout Conditions, located in Chapter 3, Project Description, identifies the anticipated increase in development within the proposed project area under implementation of the proposed General Plan Update. As shown in this table, implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in an increase in residential development, when compared to existing conditions, in the following study areas: Transit Station Target Area (+ 600 multifamily residences); South Quince Street Target Area (+10 single family residences and +80 multi-family residences); Nutmeg Street Study Area (+50 multi-family residences); Downtown SPA (+3,326 multi-family residences); East Valley Parkway Target Area (+700 multi-family residences); South Escondido Boulevard/Centre City Parkway Target Area (+610 multi-family residences); South Escondido Boulevard/Felicita Road Target Area (+300 multi-family residences); Centre City Parkway/Brotherton Road Target Area (+700 multi-family residences); and non-target City areas (+2,000 single family and +1,250 multi-family residences). Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would increase residential development within the proposed project area and would accommodate a greater population than under existing conditions. Increases in population would result in an increased demand for recreational facilities, which would have the potential to result in the deterioration of these facilities.

Additionally, a forecasted increase in population in areas that currently do not have adequate recreational facilities would have the potential to result in the accelerated deterioration of these facilities from intensified overuse. Areas that currently have deficient recreational facilities are especially vulnerable to accelerated deterioration because they already serve a greater population than intended.

Under existing conditions, the City must provide a minimum of 5.9 acres of developed active neighborhood and community parks, in addition to 5.9 acres of passive park land and/or open space for habitat preservation and additional recreational opportunities totaling 11.8 active and passive park acres per 1,000 dwelling units, including school facilities. As identified in Table 3-4, General Plan Update Buildout Conditions, in Chapter 3, Project Description, total dwelling units in the proposed project area under existing conditions total 54,034 dwelling units. As shown in Table 4.15-1, Escondido Park Facilities, the total acreage of neighborhood, community and school playground facilities is approximately 541 acres, of which 87.3 areas are undeveloped. To meet the currently adopted park standard, the proposed project area should have a total of 638 acres to serve the existing 54,034 dwelling units. However, only 541 acres of neighborhood and community parks currently exist within the proposed project area. Therefore, under existing conditions, park facilities are currently deficient in the proposed project area.

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update is likely to result in accelerated deterioration of local recreational facilities because substantial new residential development and associated population growth is anticipated in the proposed project area under the proposed General Plan Update and existing facilities are considered to be deficient.

Escondido Climate Action Plan

Within the E-CAP, reduction measure R2-T2, Bicycle Master Plan, requires the development and implementation of a Bicycle Master Plan. Reduction measure R2-T3, Transit Improvements, encourages coordination to improve public transit facilities. Reduction measure R3-T1, Regional Land Use and Transportation Coordination, requires coordination with SANDAG, Caltrans and neighboring jurisdictions to enhance alternative transportation facilities. Although the E-CAP promotes alternative transportation, it does not propose land use development beyond that allowed under the proposed General Plan Update and Specific Plan Update. Therefore, implementation of the E-CAP reduction measures would not result in an increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Federal, State and Local Regulations and Existing Regulatory Processes

Multiple federal, state and local regulations exist to ensure recreational facilities are adequate within the proposed project area. Federal regulations include the National Trails System Act of 1968, which governs the California Recreational Trails Plan. State regulations include the Quimby Act, which requires recreational facilities for new subdivisions; Government Code Section 65910, which requires counties to adopt an open space ordinance; the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, which enables cities to acquire land for parks and recreation; the Little-Used Open Space Maintenance Act, which allows governments to levy assessments to maintain open space; SB 1685, which authorizes open space districts to levy special assessments for open space purposes; the Open Space Easement Act of 1974, which establishes standards for cities and counties to acquire open space; and the Conservation Easement Act of 1979, which enables counties to acquire perpetual easements for the conservation of open space. In addition, grants from state bond sources are available to fund park and recreational facilities in urban areas and funding for maintenance of those facilities would be provided through property assessments and taxes.

Proposed General Plan Update Policies

The proposed General Plan Update includes policies that would minimize physical deterioration of parks or other recreational facilities. Within the Community Health and Services Element, various policies

ensure that existing recreational facilities would not be adversely affected by implementation of the proposed General Plan Update. Parks and Recreation Policies 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 require regular updates to park standards and the Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space; an adequate system of parks; and 11.8 acres of active and passive recreational opportunities for every 1,000 dwelling units. Parks and Recreation Policies 2.4 through 2.7 require development fees; park design guidelines; development of two community centers; and development incentives to encourage usable open space. Parks and Recreation Policies 2.8, 2.9 and 2.10 require no net loss of total park acreage; consideration of vacant land for recreational facilities; and prioritizing park acquisition in areas with the greatest need, including the northern expansion of Grape Day Park. Parks and Recreation Policies 2.11 through 2.15 require parks improvement programs; joint use of school recreational facilities; revision of park development fees; park development fees from non-residential uses; and the review of funding sources. Parks and Recreation Policies 2.16, 2.17, and 2.18 require development and maintenance in regional parks; improvement to Escondido Creek Trail; and the provision of active and passive recreation in regional parks. Parks and Recreation Policies 2.19 and 2.20 require consultation with the public to determine recreational needs. Parks and Recreation Policies 2.21 through 2.26 require park land dedication for planned developments; consolidation and clustering of development to accommodate parkland; private park facilities for private development; and alternative uses of golf courses. Parks and Recreation Policy 2.27 requires the incorporation of energy and water efficient practices for parkland development.

Within the Land Use and Community Form Element, Environmental Review Policies 18.1 through 18.4 require project conformance with CEQA, the General Plan, facilities plans, and quality of life standards; mitigation of environmental impacts; and an update of environmental thresholds in sensitive areas.

Proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update Policies

Planning Principal and Guideline 1k(1) within the Downtown Specific Plan Update requires the provision of recreation facilities to enhance the downtown area.

Proposed Escondido Climate Action Plan Reduction Measures

Reduction measure R2-T2, Bicycle Master Plan, within the E-CAP encourages implementation of the City's Bicycle Master Plan.

Summary

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update would have the potential to result in the deterioration of recreational facilities throughout the proposed project area. Increases in population and development would result in an increased use of recreational facilities, which would have the potential to result in the deterioration of existing facilities. Additionally, the forecasted increase in population in areas that do not currently have adequate local recreational facilities would have the potential to accelerate the deterioration of existing facilities from intensified overuse. However, implementation of existing regulations, the proposed General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update policies and E-CAP measures would reduce impacts associated with deterioration of parks and recreational facilities to below a level of significance. Further, implementation of the E-CAP would not result in significant impacts related to the deterioration of parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact associated with the deterioration of parks and recreational facilities.

4.15.3.2 Issue 2: Construction of New Recreational Facilities

Guidelines for Determination of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and existing City policies and regulations, the proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which would result in an adverse effect on the environment. New or expanded recreational facilities would be required if implementation of the proposed project would not meet City park standards. City standards include providing a minimum of 5.9 acres of developed active neighborhood and community parks, in addition to 5.9 acres of passive park land and/or open space for habitat preservation, and additional active and passive recreational opportunities totaling 11.8 acres per 1,000 dwelling units.

Impact Analysis

Growth under the proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update would be consistent with the growth identified for the proposed General Plan Update; therefore, the following analysis pertains to both the General Plan Update and the Downtown Specific Plan Update. Impacts related to implementation of the E-CAP are discussed separately below.

General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update

As described above in Section 4.14.3.1, Issue 1, Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities, the proposed project area does not meet City park standards under existing conditions and is deficient by 97 acres. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in increased residential development and associated population growth. To meet City park standards, new or expanded recreational facilities would be required.

To meet existing recreational deficiencies, the Master Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space identifies the acquisition of new park lands, improvements to Felicita County Park and the joint use of 74 acres of school/park sites. An additional 12 acres at Mountain View Park and 10 acres at Jesmond Dene are planned for new passive recreational uses including walking trails and picnic areas. Additionally, the Master Plan calls for adding 115.5 acres of active sport-oriented park land in order to fulfill an identified need in the community. The Master Plan also identifies the need to build a new community center in addition to the City's existing facility on East Valley Parkway and identifies the need to construct new trails, including three miles of urban system trails, 15 miles of rural link trails from San Marcos to San Dieguito Park, 40 miles in regional rural connector trails and loops, and one mile of spur trails and equestrian parking facilities.

Providing new park and trail facilities includes, by definition, the acquisition and development of land as well as funding for the ongoing operation and maintenance of developed facilities. The City provides funding for park facilities through various revenue sources, including but not limited to, revenues from the general fund, park development fees, user fees, other special City revenue, and special state and federal grants.

Although the proposed General Plan Update does not specifically site or plan recreational facilities, it would allow for the development of future recreational facilities, including parks, trails, athletic fields, and community centers, within the proposed Parks and Open Space land use designation. Potential

physical environmental impacts resulting from future growth accommodated by implementation of the proposed General Plan Update have been analyzed in the various sections of this EIR. Any impacts occurring from construction or operation of future development under the proposed General Plan Update, including any recreational facilities, would be reduced and/or mitigated by the policies and measures provided in the other sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis, of this EIR. Examples of potential environmental impacts from the construction of facilities include generation of air pollutants during construction; removal of biological resources; disturbances to historical, archeological and paleontological resources; generation of excessive noise levels; increased traffic; and increased demand for water/wastewater services. A complete discussion of these potential physical impacts are included in the following EIR sections: 4.3 Air Quality, 4.4 Biology, 4.5 Cultural Resources, 4.12 Noise, 4.16 Traffic and 4.17 Utilities. Therefore, potential physical effects on the environment from recreational facilities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of mitigation measures identified in this EIR.

Escondido Climate Action Plan

E-CAP reduction measure R2-T2 encourages implementation of the City's Bicycle Master Plan in an effort to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Construction of new bicycle facilities, proposed under the Bicycle Master Plan, would be available for public recreational use. Any impacts occurring from construction of future Bicycle Master Plan facilities would be reduced and/or mitigated by the policies and measures provided in the other sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis, of this EIR. Therefore, potential physical effects on the environment from the development of recreational facilities associated with implementation of the E-CAP measures would be less than significant.

Federal, State and Local Regulations and Existing Regulatory Processes

The federal, state and local regulations listed in Section 4.14.3.1, Issue I: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities, are applicable to the issue of construction and expansion of recreational facilities.

Proposed General Plan Update Policies

The proposed General Plan Update policies listed in Section 4.14.3.1, Issue I: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities, are applicable to the issue of construction and expansion of recreational facilities.

Proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update Policies

The proposed Downtown Specific Plan policy listed in Section 4.14.3.1, Issue I: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities, is applicable to the issue of construction and expansion of recreational facilities.

Proposed Escondido Climate Action Plan Reduction Measures

The proposed E-CAP policy listed in Section 4.14.3.1, Issue I: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities, is applicable to the issue of construction and expansion of recreational facilities.

Summary

The General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update do not specifically plan or site new recreational facilities; however, land uses under the General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update would allow for the development of future recreational facilities, including parks, trails, athletic

fields, and community centers. Additionally, the E-CAP supports the development of facilities within the Bicycle Master Plan. The construction of new recreational facilities or expansion of existing facilities would have the potential to result in physical environmental effects. Implementation of the measures identified in the various sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis, of this EIR would reduce the potentially significant impact associated with the construction of new recreational facilities to a less than significant level.

4.15.4 Cumulative Impact

The geographic scope of cumulative impact analysis for recreational resources includes the entire County of San Diego, including incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Issue 1: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities

The cumulative projects in the San Diego region would have the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact if they would, in combination, result in the deterioration of parks and recreational facilities due to increased usage. Some cumulative projects would have the potential to increase the demand for recreational facilities, which could result in deterioration of existing facilities. However, the deterioration that would occur to parks and recreational facilities from regional population growth may be partially offset with funding from new development such as in-lieu fees for parks or donation of parkland pursuant to the Quimby Act. In addition, grants from state bond sources are available to fund park and recreational facilities in urban areas and funding for maintenance of those facilities would be provided through property assessments and taxes. Cumulative recreational projects would undergo environmental review, and would be required to demonstrate compliance with CEQA and/or NEPA prior to project approval. However, even cumulative projects that undergo environmental review would have the potential to result in significant and unavoidable impacts that could combine to form a significant cumulative impact from the removal or degradation of recreational facilities in the region. In addition, impacts that may be mitigated to a less than significant level on an individual project level would have the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact when combined with other project impacts. Therefore, a potentially significant cumulative impact would occur.

As discussed in Section 4.14.3.1, Issue 1: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities, implementation of the General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update would increase residential development and accommodate an increased population, which would incrementally increase the demand for recreational facilities and substantially degrade existing recreational facilities. However, implementation of existing regulation, the proposed General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan policies, and E-CAP measures would reduce this direct impact to a level below significant. The E-CAP would not impact existing recreational facilities. In combination with other cumulative projects in the region, the proposed project's contribution would not be cumulatively considerable.

Issue 2: Construction of New Recreational Facilities

The cumulative projects in the San Diego region would have the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact if they would, in combination, require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which would have an adverse effect on the environment. In order to accommodate future demand for park and recreational facilities from population growth in the San Diego region, additional park and recreational facilities would be developed and constructed throughout the region. In many

cases, demand would be met through master plans and capital improvement projects approved by adjacent cities and counties. While the majority of cumulative projects would be required to demonstrate compliance with CEQA and/or NEPA prior to project approval, they would incrementally increase the need for new or expanded facilities, which would have the potential to result in adverse environmental effects. Therefore, cumulative projects would result in a significant cumulative impact associated with the construction of recreational facilities.

As discussed above, the development of future land uses as designated in the proposed General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update would increase the need for new or expanded recreational facilities, which would have the potential to result in adverse environmental impacts. Additionally, the E-CAP encourages the development of recreational facilities identified within the Bicycle Master Plan. However, implementation of the policies and measures identified in the various sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis, of this EIR would reduce the potentially significant impact associated with the construction of new recreational facilities to a less than significant level. In combination with other cumulative projects in the region, the proposed project's contribution would not be cumulatively considerable.

4.15.5 Significance of Impact Prior to Mitigation

Prior to mitigation, implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant direct and cumulative impacts associated with the deterioration of existing recreational facilities and the construction or expansion of new recreational facilities.

4.15.6 Mitigation

Issue 1: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to the deterioration of parks and recreational facilities. No mitigation is necessary.

Issue 2: Construction of New Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the policies and measures identified in the various sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis, of this EIR would reduce the proposed project's potentially significant impact associated with the construction of new recreational facilities to a less than significant level.

4.15.7 Conclusion

The discussion below provides a synopsis of the conclusion reached in each of the above impact analyses.

Issue 1: Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update would increase use of existing parks, thereby resulting in accelerated deterioration of recreational facilities. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update policies and E-Cap measures

would reduce the proposed project's direct impacts to below a level of significance. Additionally, the E-CAP would not impact existing park or recreation facilities. The proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact associated with deterioration of parks and recreational facilities.

Issue 2: Construction of New Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update and E-CAP would require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which may have an adverse effect on the environment. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update policies and E-CAP reduction measures would reduce the proposed project's direct impacts to below a level of significance. The proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact associated with the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.